Colfax Community Watershed and Fire Safe Ecosystem Project

Funded by Proposition 13 and
local cost shares to City of Colfax

Otis Wollan, Project Manager

Project elements, plus:

- Fire behavior analysis, resulting in a strategic plan for fuel break locations
- Organize a community fire safe project. Or, better stated, create conditions for a community to self-organize to accomplish a project.
- Assessing water quality impacts of the project: close in picture & BIG picture.
- DO IT!
- Education & outreach, monitor & feedback

Project location:

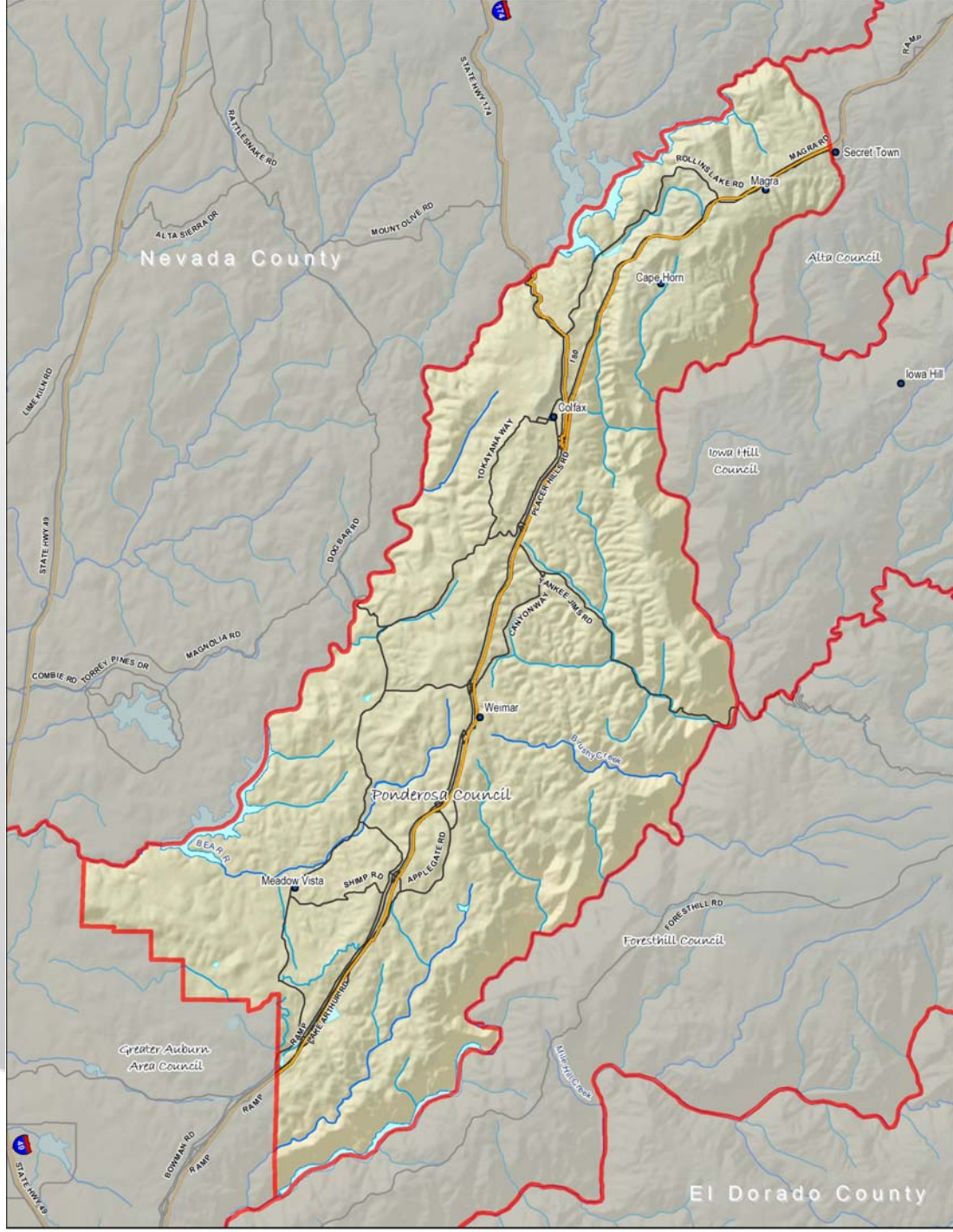
NE of Sacramento

Route 80 Corridor

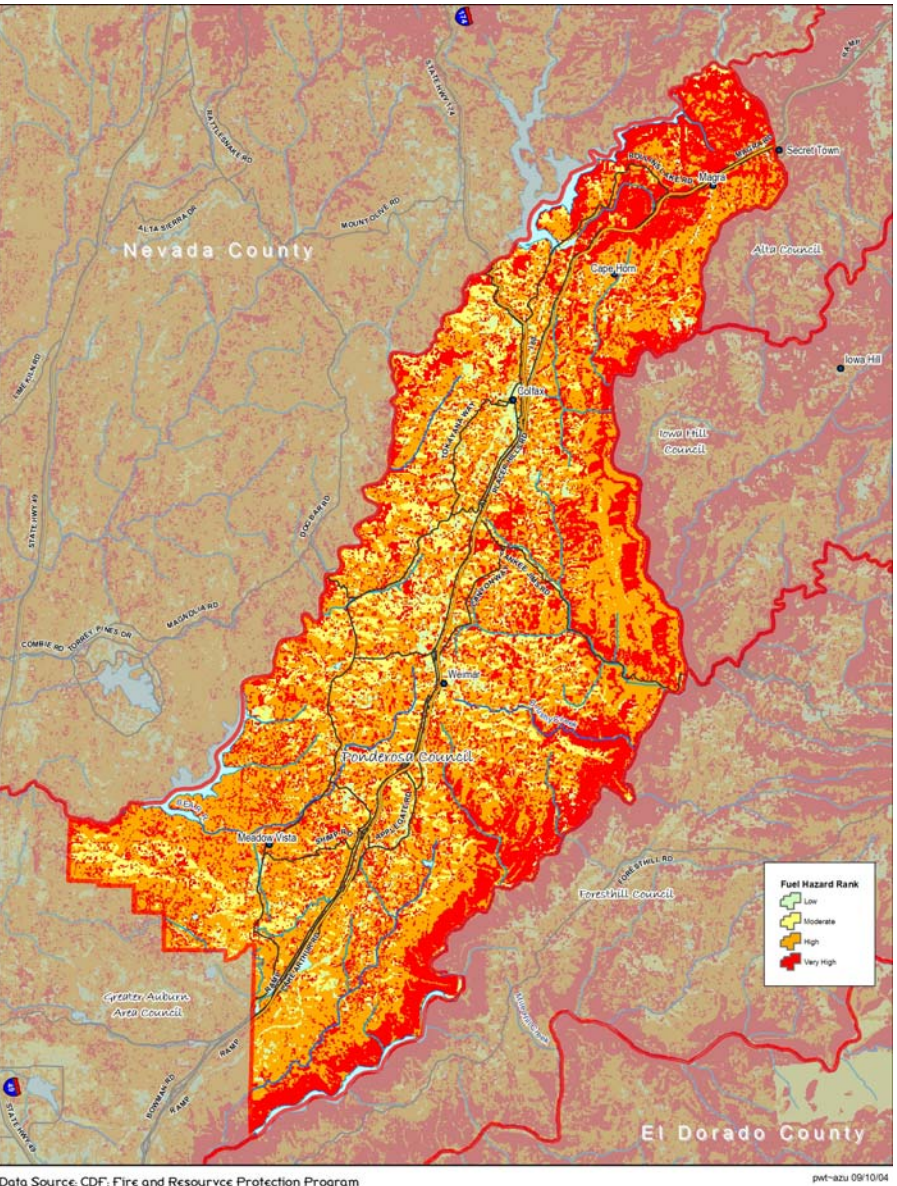
1000-3000 ft elevation

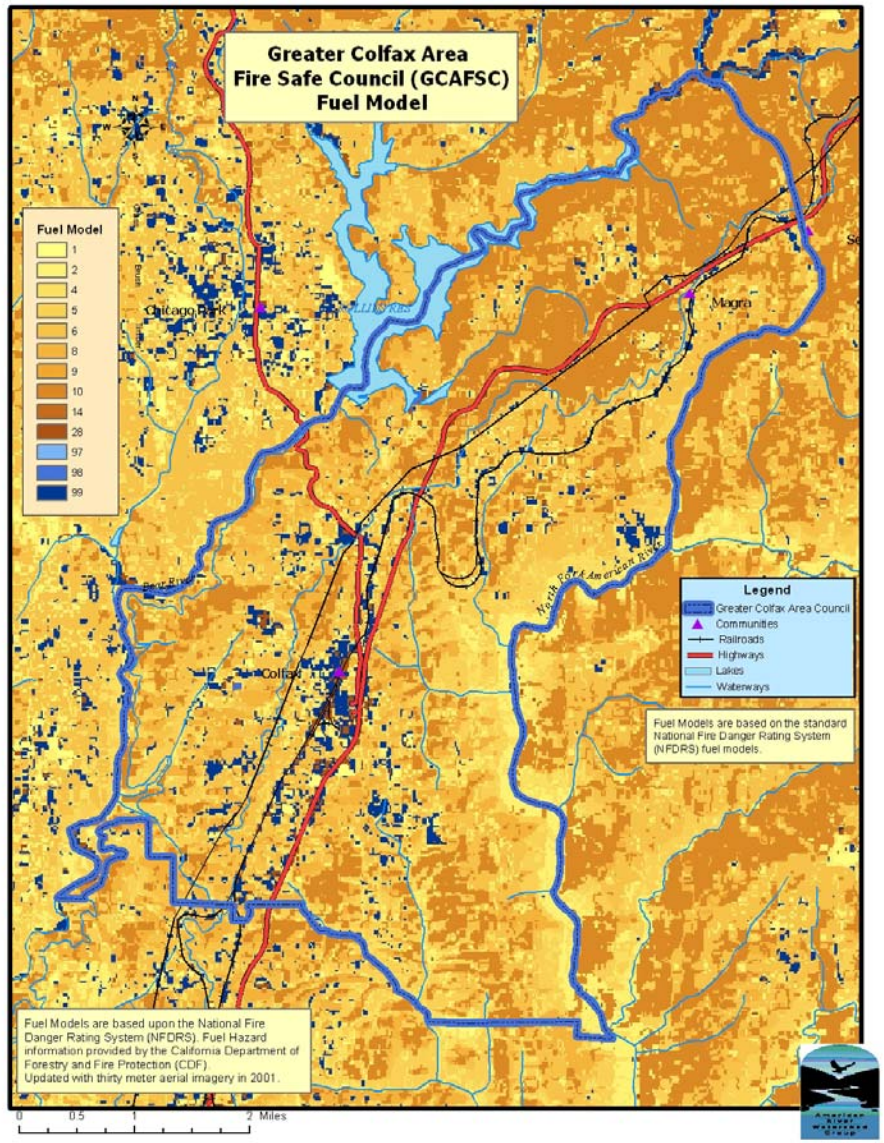
Map boundary shows:

Ponderosa Fire Safe Council

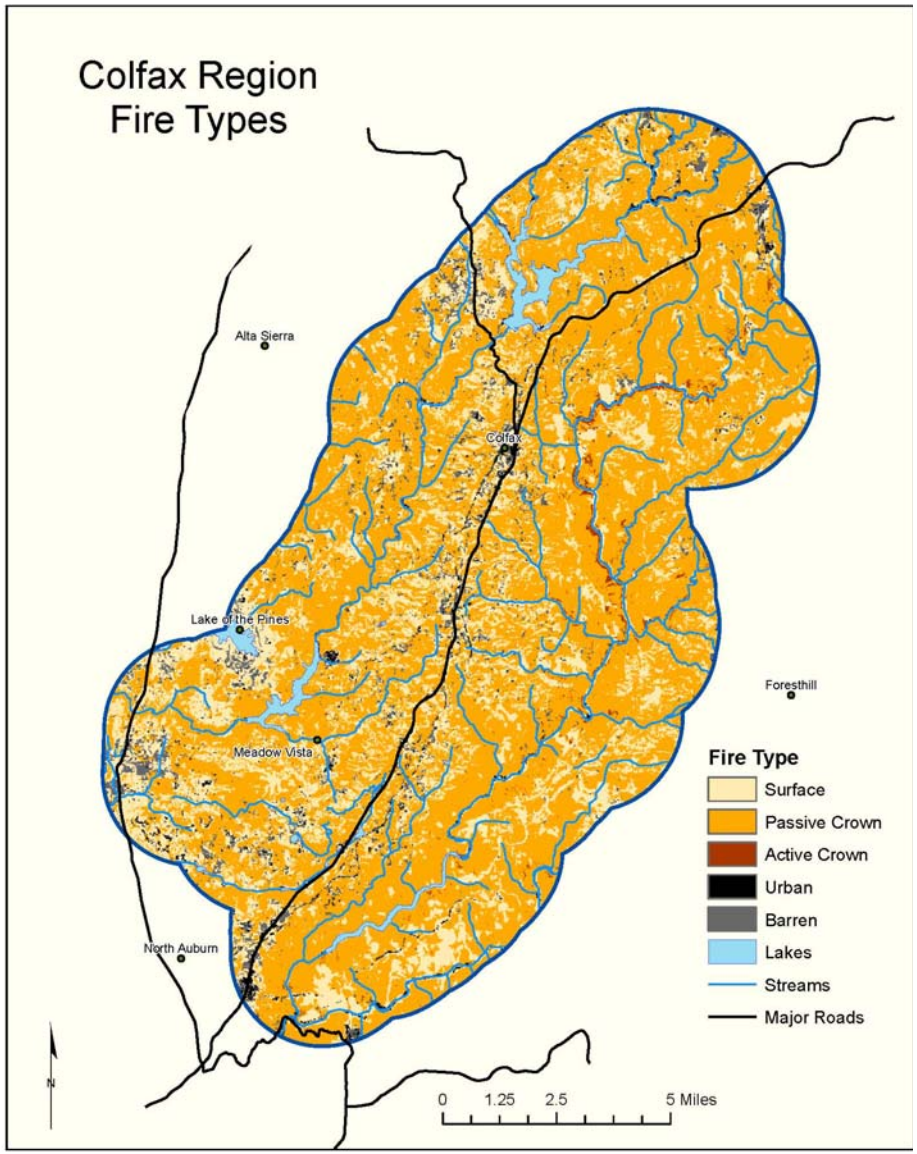


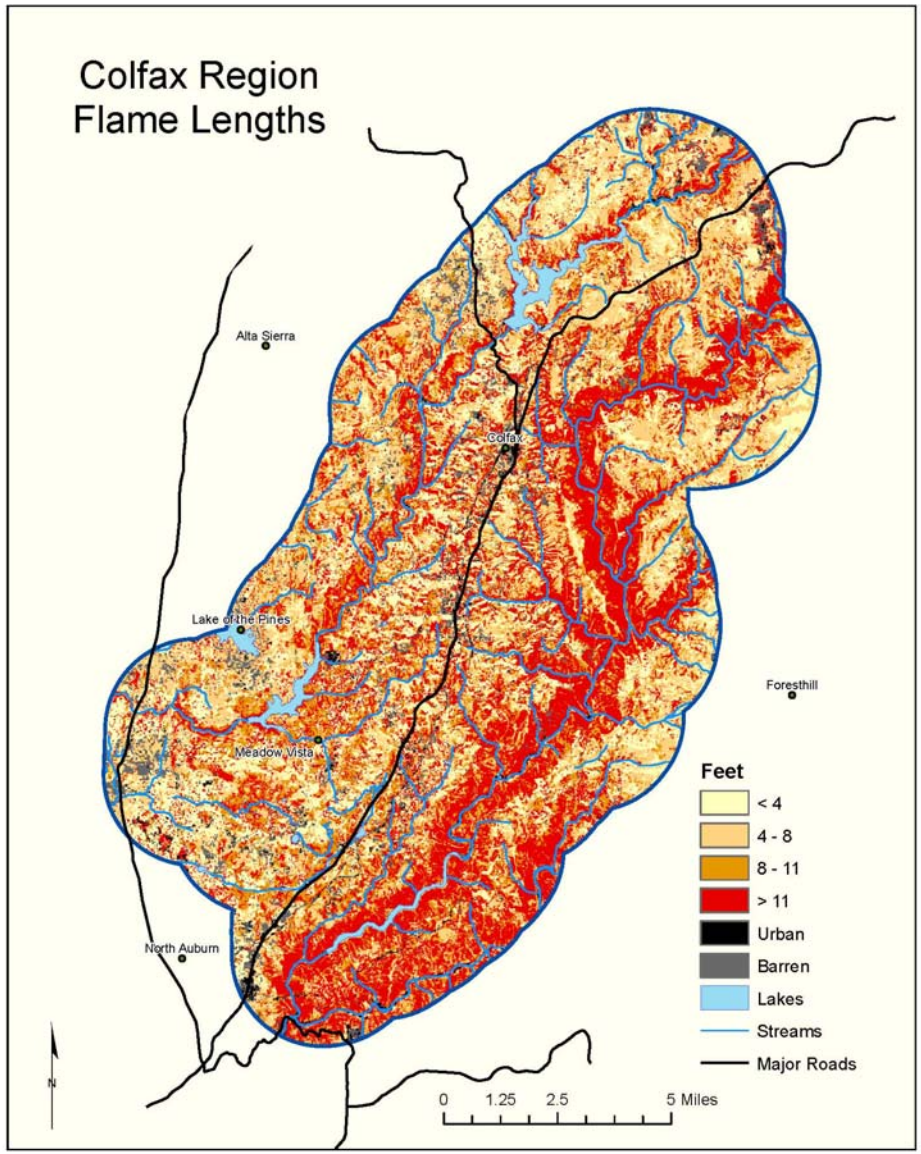
Analysis of fuel and hazard rating, +

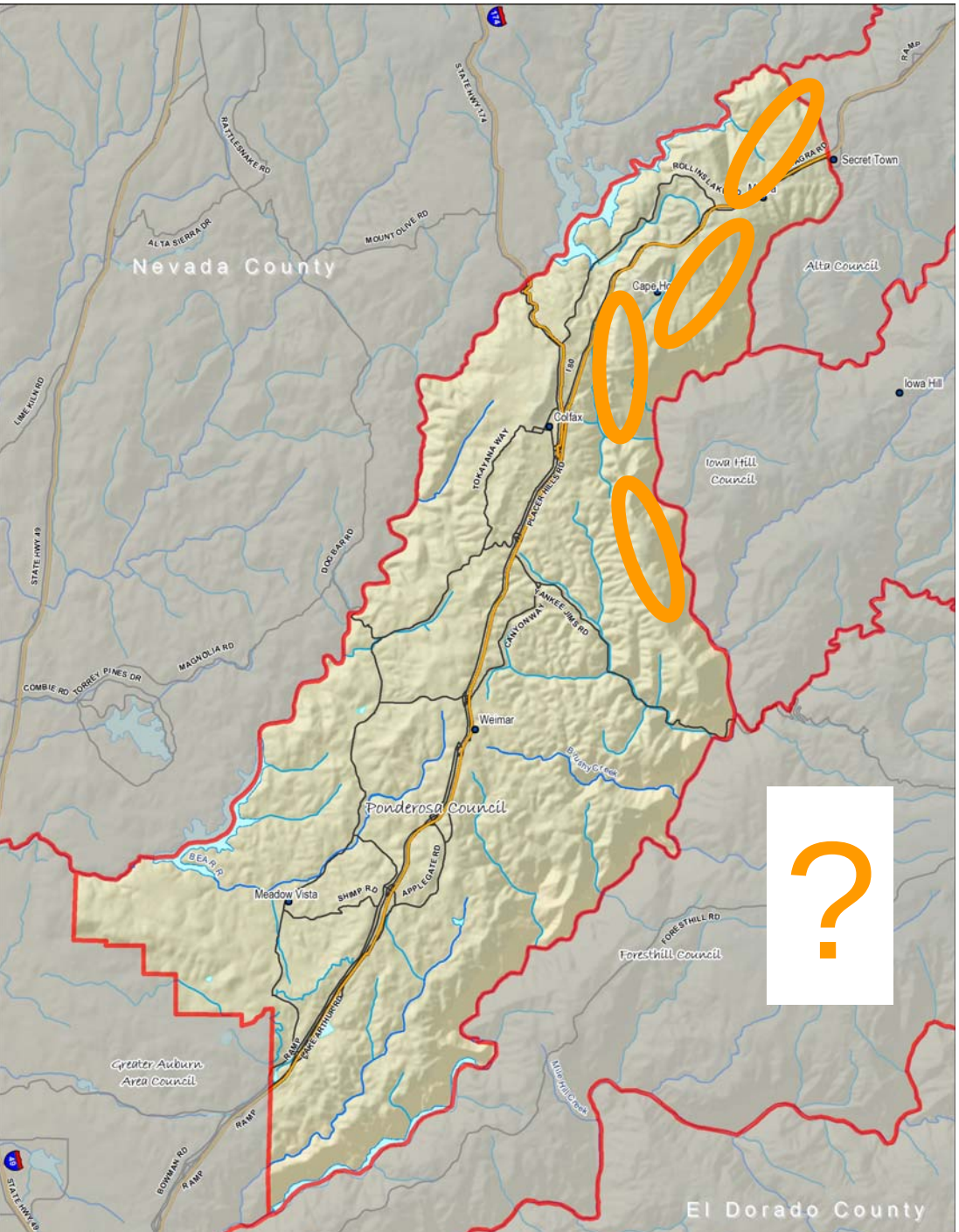




Plus fire type and flame lengths will result in area network plan of shaded fuel breaks







Next Step:

Using information from the previous analyses, establish a network of "SPLAT's"----

Strategically Placed Local Area Treatments

Essentially, a network of shaded fuel breaks that will help protect the community.

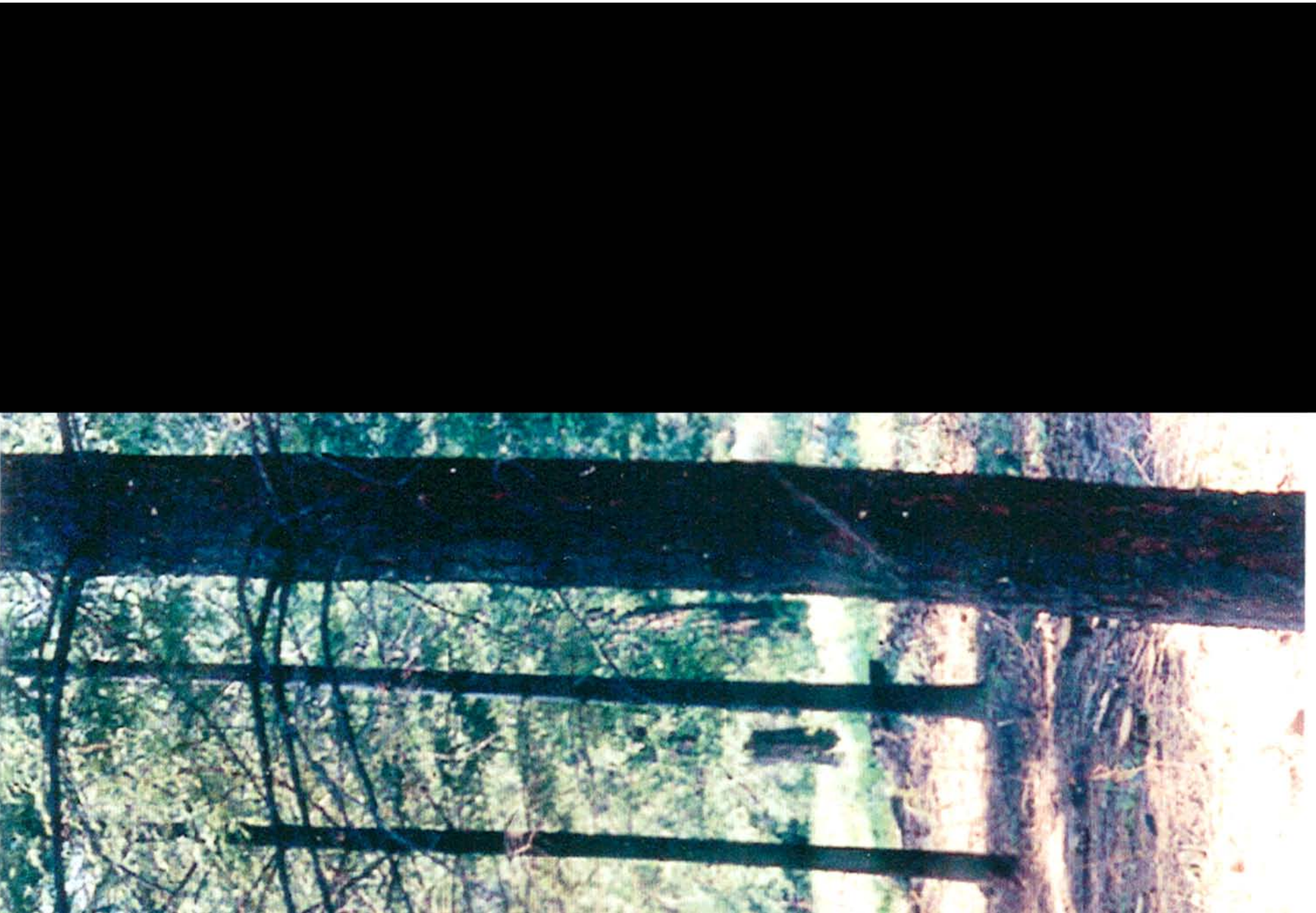
What will it look like?

The SPLAT plan will be complete January 2006.

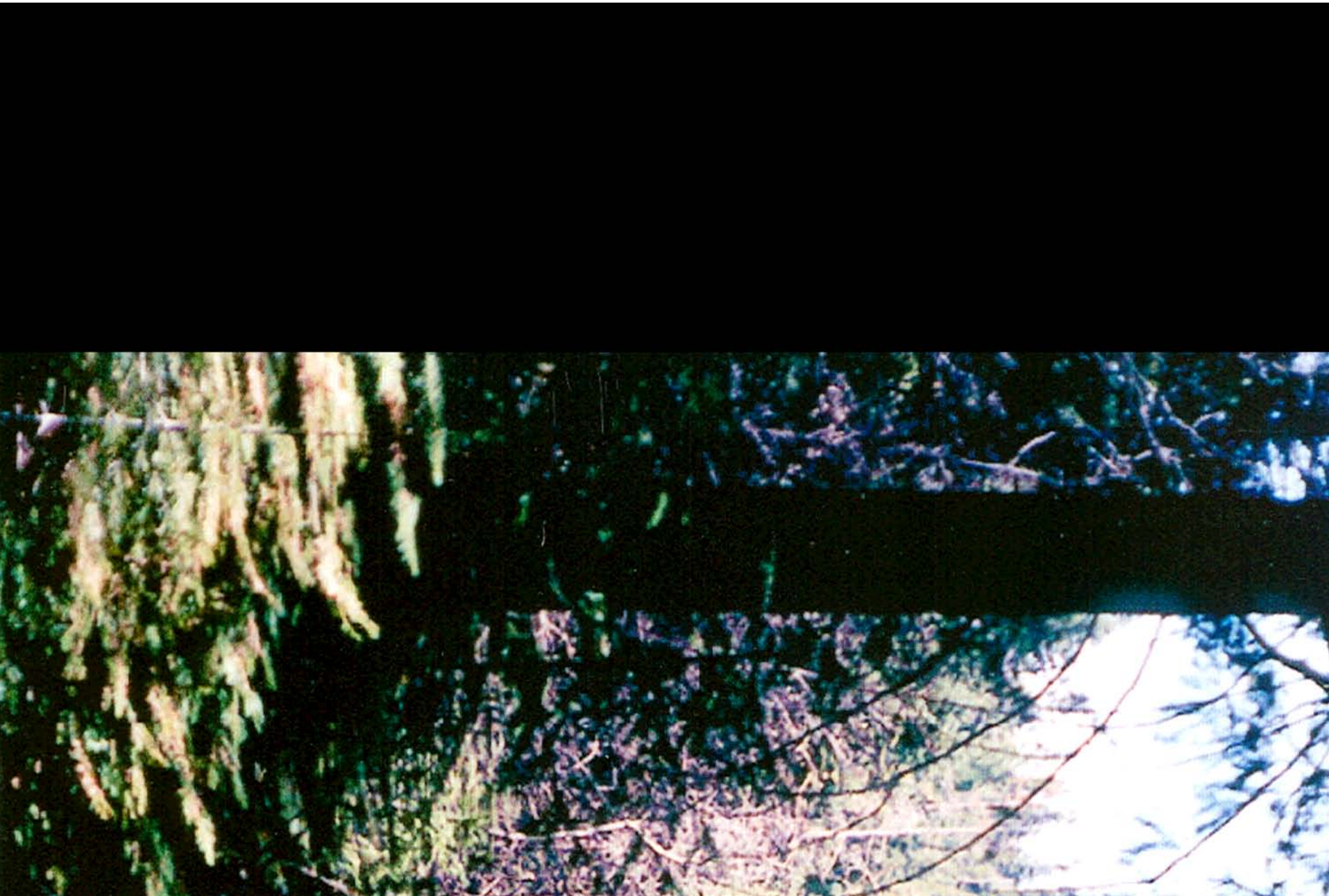
What does a shaded fuel break look like?

Foresthill Shaded Fuel Break Demonstration--- Before Treatment

Foresthill Shaded Fuel Break Demonstration--- After Treatment



Natural Old Growth Forest--- Understory and Canopy are separate



Cone Fire where treated. Note tree spacing from thinning, limbs trimmed up 6-10 feet from ground, brush cleared, no ladder fuels allowing groundfire to climb to canopy.

Fire in Treated Area

Cone Fire—where not treated. Note crowded condition, grey ash indicating hot fire where fuel load was dense.

Fire in Untreated Area

Local Project Water Quality Impacts

Shaded Fuel Breaks:

- Usually high on ridge; waterbodies buffered
- Methods have varying impacts on runoff
- Extent of canopy removal variable

Our project:

- Called *Hillcrest Lane:*

drainages ephemeral

- Using mastication; chips mulch soil
- Leave 50% canopy+

Hillcrest project will do photo monitoring; water quality monitoring was deemed inappropriate for this type of shaded fuel break project.

BIG PICTURE

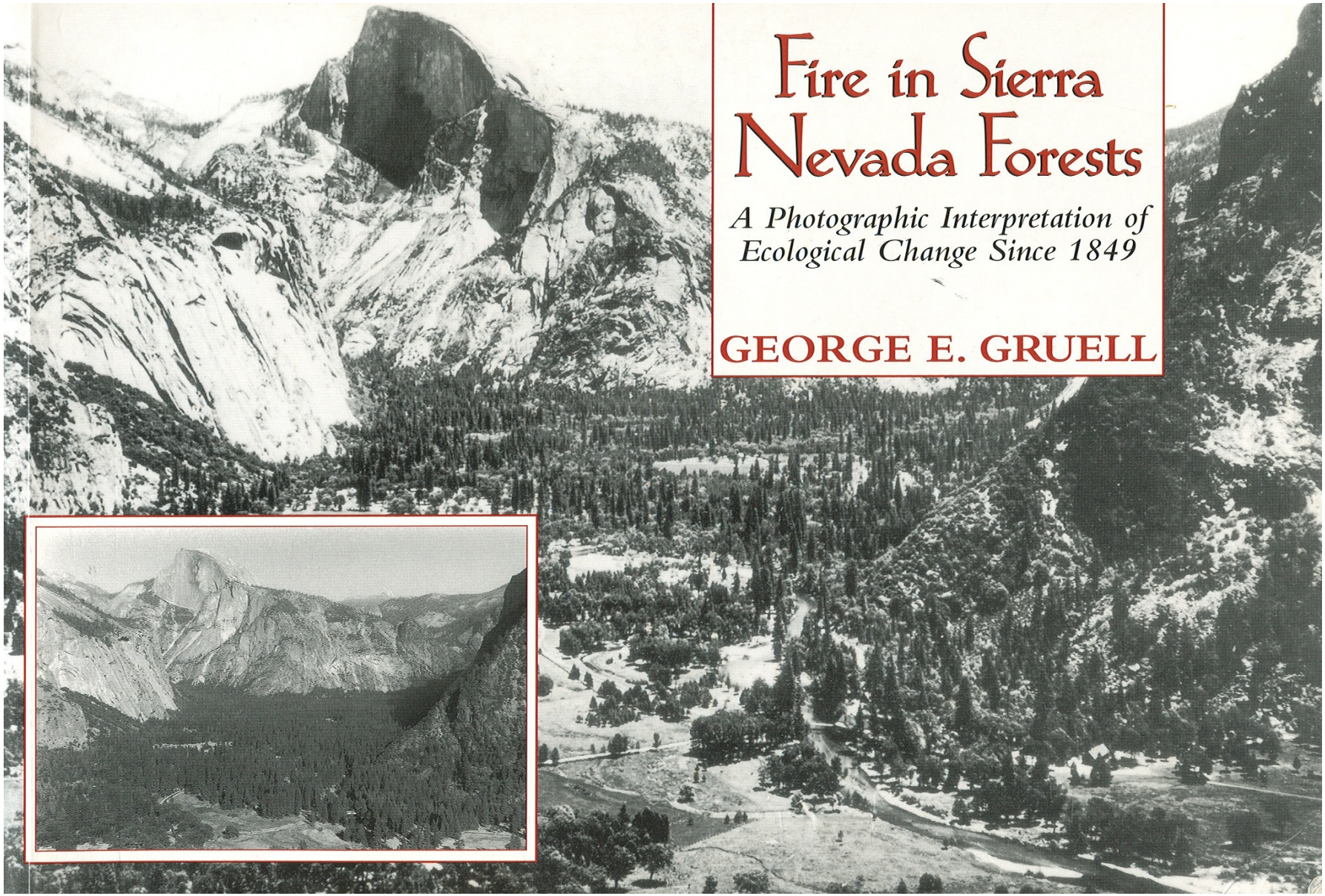
The unintended consequence of fire suppression and even-aged timber management is catastrophic fire. Are there water quality impacts?

Picture = 1000 words

Volcano Fire 1960

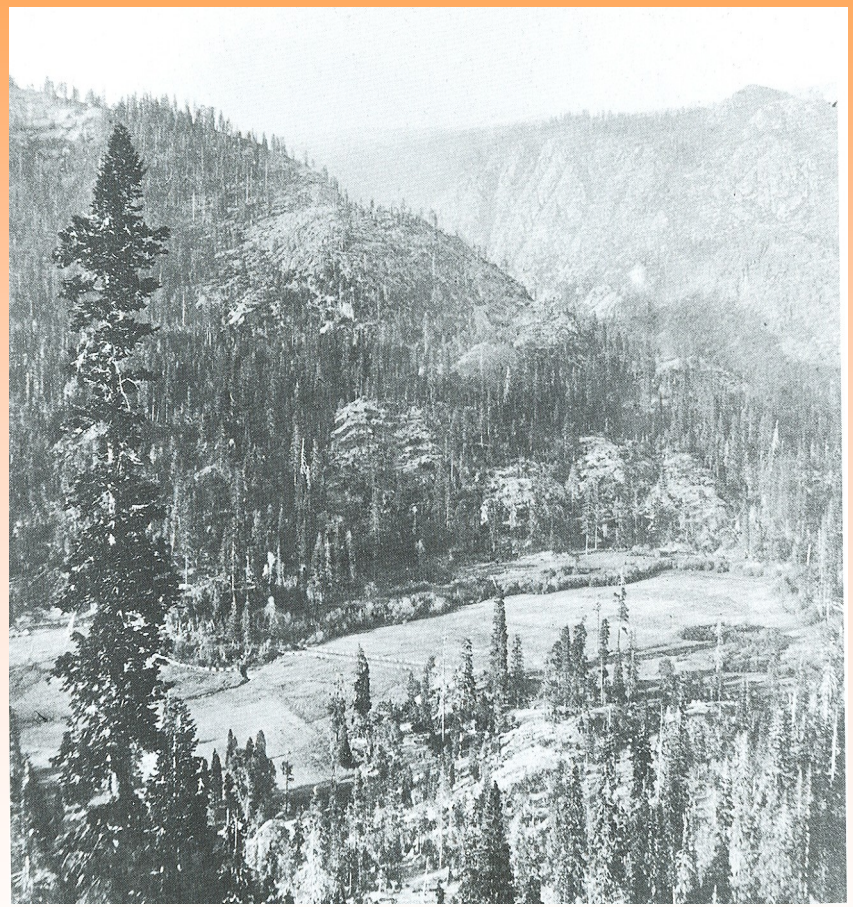
This catastrophic fire burned very hot through overcrowded, unthinned second growth forest.

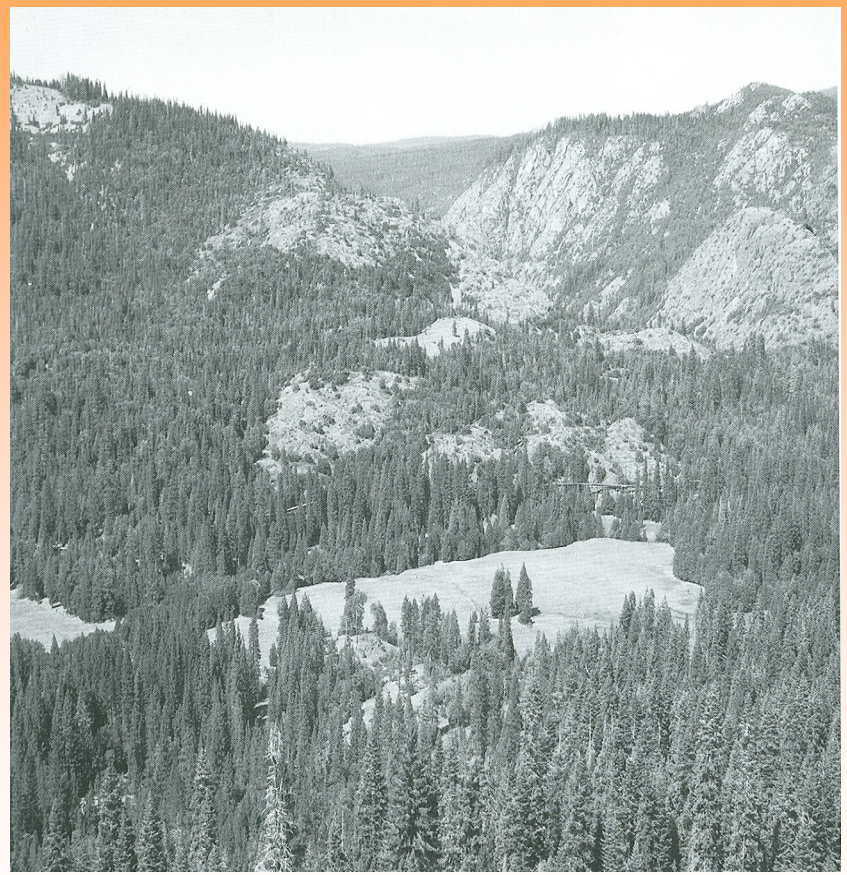
Similar conditions exist throughout the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council. Note the size and density of the burned standing tree trunks. Many of our forests have similar age and crowding characteristics.



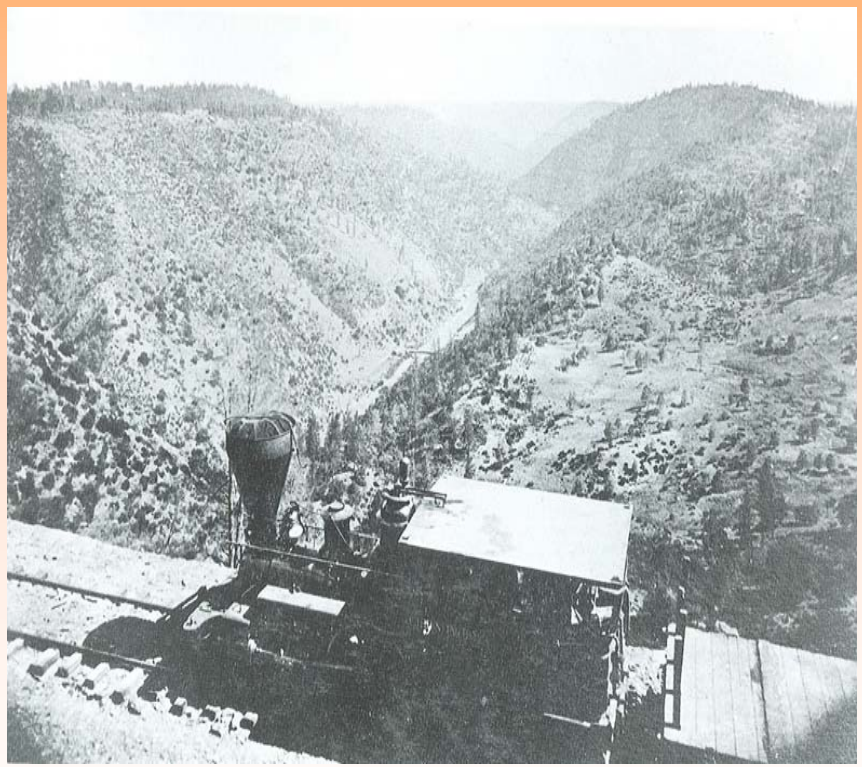
Fire in the Sierra compares photos from 1800's with photos from today.

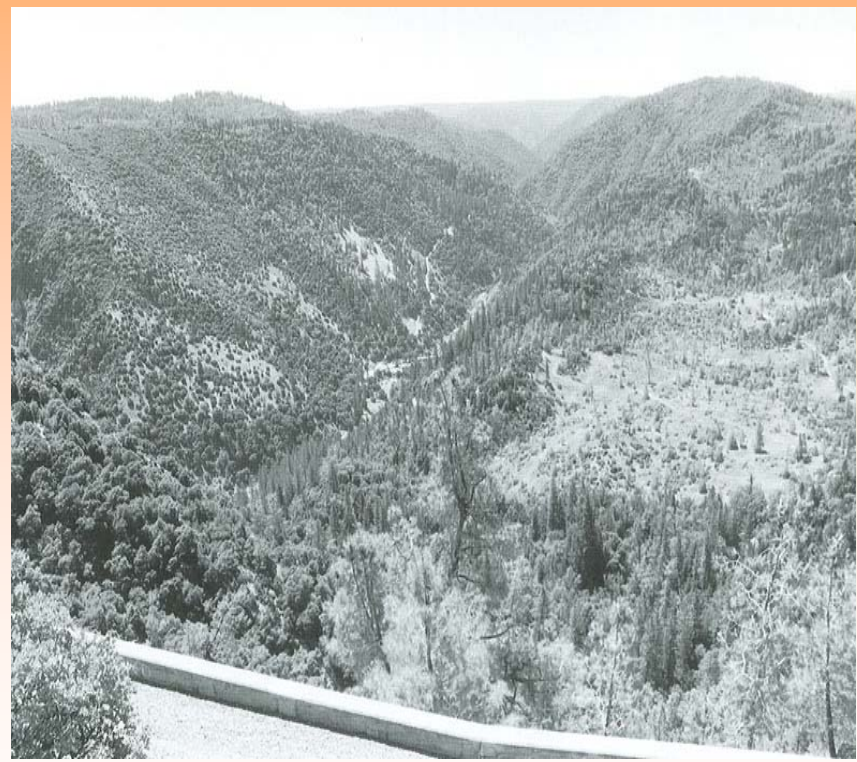
Bear River Valley 1867 vs. 1992



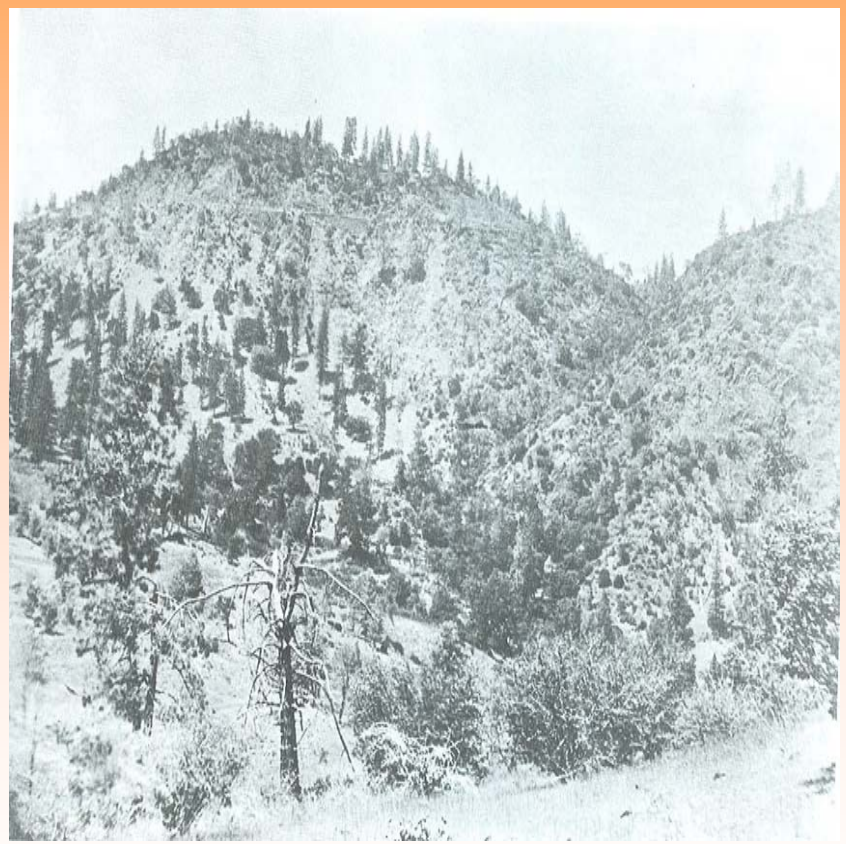


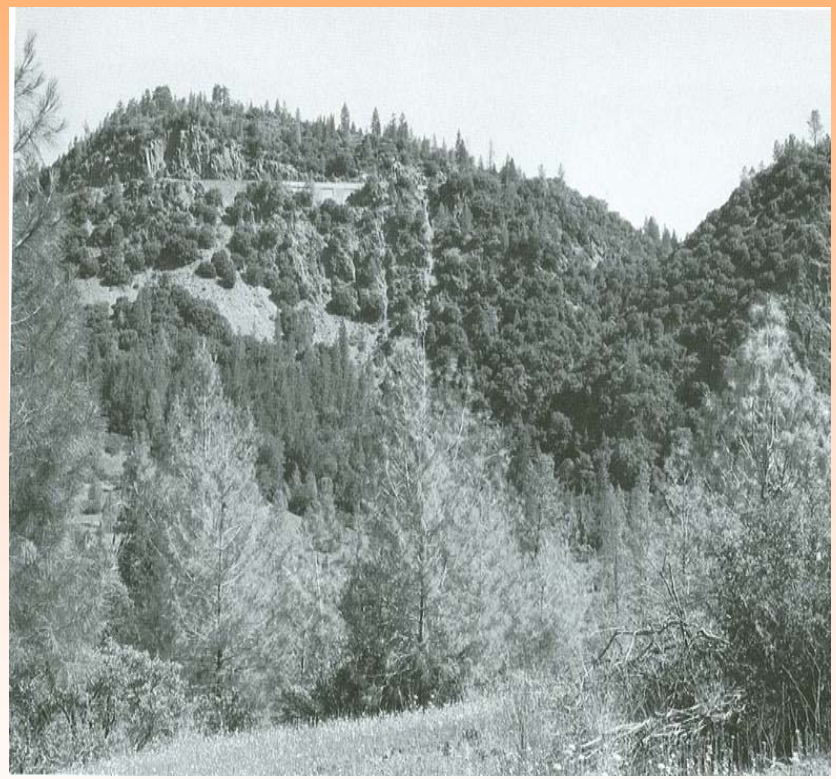
Cape Horn 1867 vs. 1993





NF Am. R. at Cape Horn 1867 vs. 1993

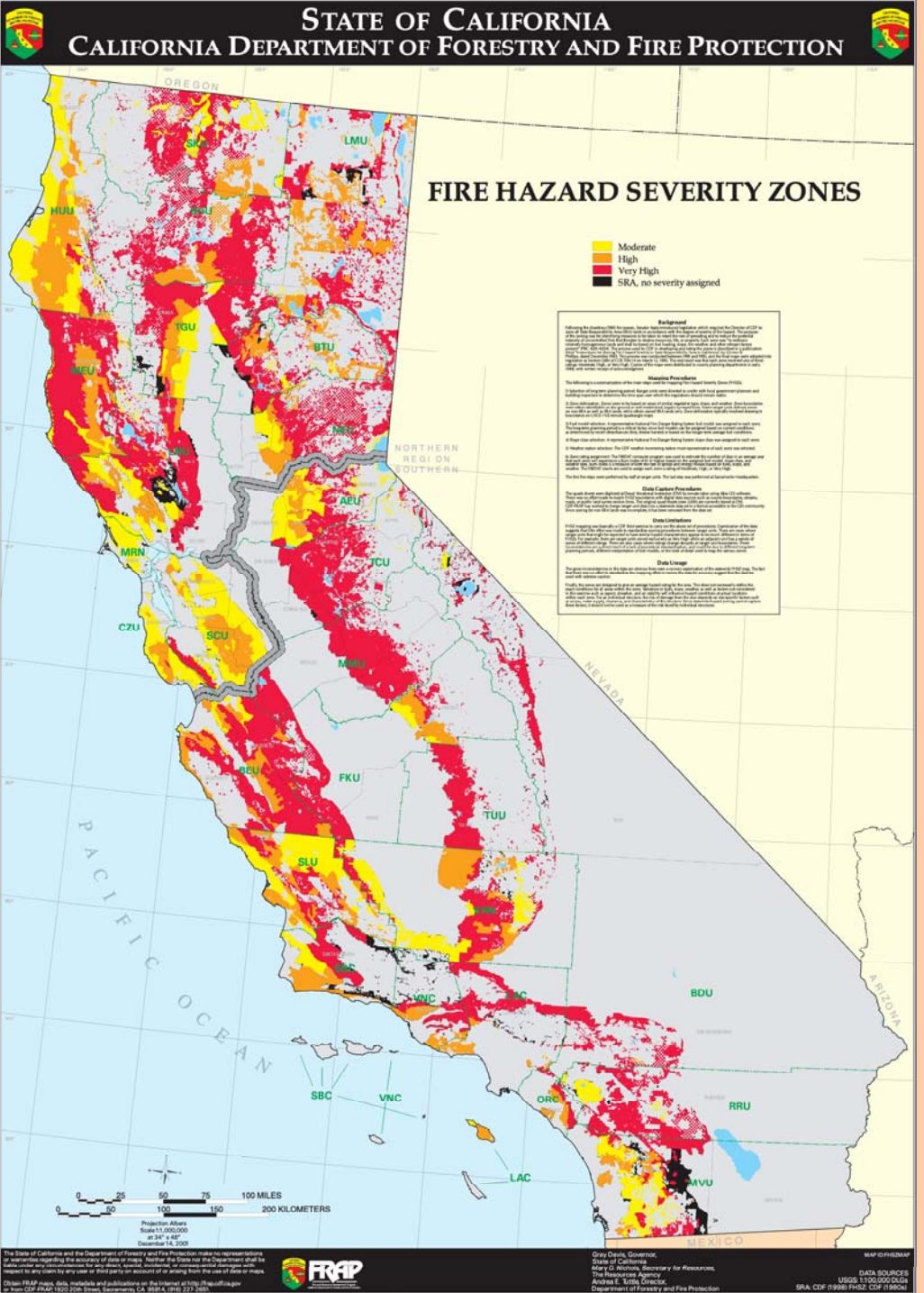




Stevens Fire at Cape Horn 2004

Flame lengths were too great to fight from ground due to heavy fuel load, even without wind

Fuel breaks and back fires stopped the fire at the ridge top: only a few homes were lost.



How Big Is It?

In a word: HUGE.

A very large proportion of California's landscape is heavily fuel loaded, far outside the natural range of variability.

The problem is getting worse, not better. Fuel loads are increasing 2-5% per annum, while fuel reduction programs cannot keep pace.

The water quality problem is but one aspect. Others include: loss of life, property loss, natural resource destruction, water supply and hydropower impairment, air quality, aesthetic and recreation degradation.

Is the scale simply to big?

What will it take to bring California's natural fire ecosystem into balance?

Community Organizing: (self-organizing)

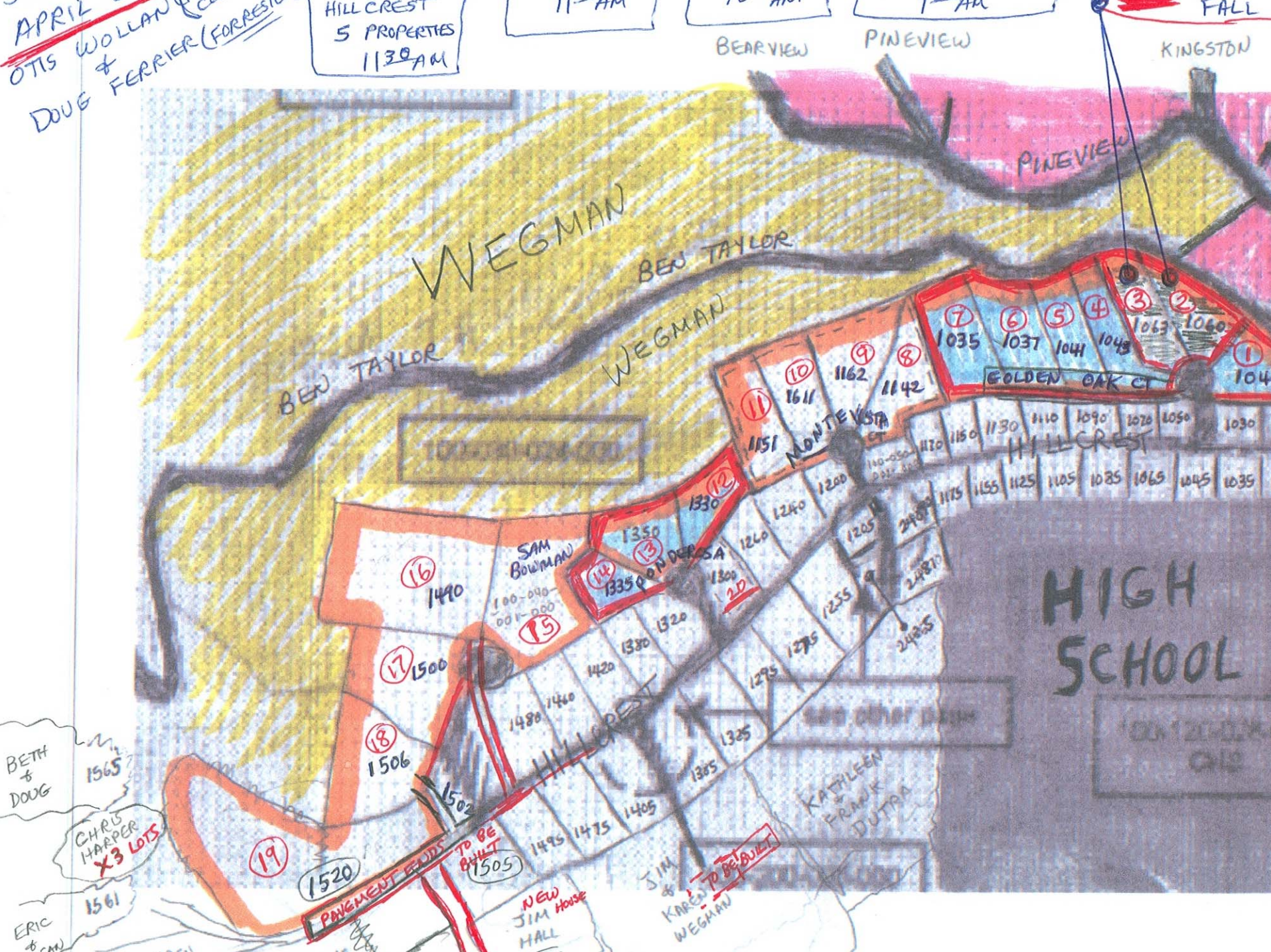
USFS sociologist said:

- Neighbors need background education
- Multiple contacts are needed
- Experienced earlier small project
- A “sparkplug” from the community needs to emerge

Hillcrest project

- Neighborhood target since 2000
- FSC and CDF made multiple contacts
- Chipper program done in 2002
- Community opinion leader emerged---- big time!

The Fire Safe Council together with CDF, Placer County RCD and Placer County did a chipper program for defensible space in the Hillcrest Neighborhood in 2002.


APRIL
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&
DOUG FERRIER (FORRESTO
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5 PROPERTIES
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PINEVIEW
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KINGSTON
WEGMAN
BEN TAYLOR
WEGMAN
BEN TAYLOR
PINEVIEW
GOLDEN OAK CT
MONTE VISTA CT
HILLCREST
HILLCREST
SAM BOWMAN
PONDEROSA
HIGH SCHOOL
KATHLEEN & FRANK DUTRA
BETH & DOUG
1565
CHRIS HARPER
X3 LOTS
1561
ERIC
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PAVEMENT ENDS
TO BE BUILT
NEW JIM HOUSE
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JIM & KAREN WEGMAN
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SATURDAY APRIL 2

YES - AVAILABLE

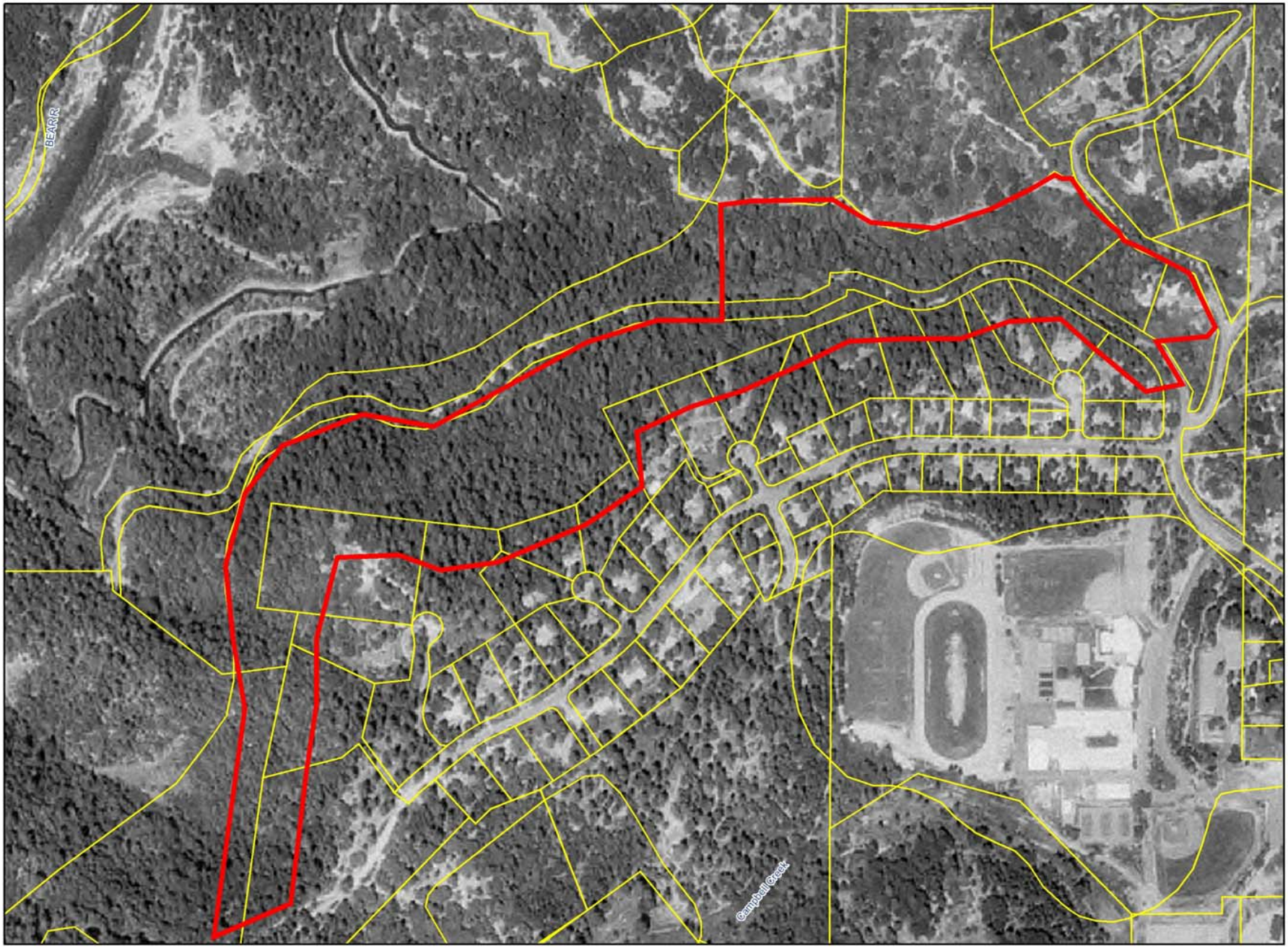
Hillcrest Parcels

BORDERING WEGMAN

as of 3/9/20

STREET #

	Parcel #	Acres	Lastname	Firstname	Mailing Address	Mailing Ci	Mail	Mailing Z	Situs #	Situs Street
			HILLCREST CUL-DE-SACS							
			GOLDEN OAK CT.							
?	100-060-014-000		Wegman	John & Jean	1095 Pinecrest Dr.	Meadow Vi	CA		1030	Golden Oak Ct
9:30 AM (7)	100-060-039-000	1.5	Azzarello	Michael & Jo Ann	1035 Golden Oak Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1035	Golden Oak Ct
9:30 AM (6)	100-060-040-000	1.2	Degner (389-2509 TODD & KIM SOWERS)	Vernon & Shirley	Box 1354	Colfax	CA	95713	1037	Golden Oak Ct
9:30 AM (1)	100-060-015-000	1+	Bowman	Sam & Lorraine	1040 Golden Oak Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1040	Golden Oak Ct
NOTE: LOGGING 2005 (2)	100-060-016-000	2	Wixon	Donald	1060 Golden Oak Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1060	Golden Oak Ct
(3)	100-060-017-000	1+	Wixon	Richard & Carlotta	14216 S. Karry Pl	Grass Valle	CA	95945	1063	Golden Oak Ct
9:30 AM BUT LEAVING (4)	100-060-018-000	1.0	White	David & Lindsy	1043 Golden Oak Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1043	Golden Oak Ct
9:30 AM (5)	100-060-019-000	1.0	Sjoberg	Barry Lee	1041 Golden Oak Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1041	Golden Oak Ct
			MONTE VISTA CT. → HOLLINGSWORTH, CHRIS & KELLY (RENTERS)							
10:30 AM YES - KELLY										
10:30 AM 3-26 (8)	100-040-015-000	2	Fennelly*	Patrick & Marlene	13995 Frontier Oak Ct.	Auburn	CA	95603	1142	Monte Vista Ct
MESSAGE 3-30 (9)	100-040-014-000	1.3	Isaacson	Dion & Carol Diane	Box 280	Colfax	CA	95713	1162	Monte Vista Ct
MESSAGE 3-30 (10)	100-040-013-000	2.8	Frazer	John	1611 Monte Vista Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1611	Monte Vista Ct
10:30 AM (11)	100-040-012-000	2.0	Hoffmann	Brant & Mary	1151 Monte Vista Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1151	Monte Vista Ct
			PONDEROSA CT.							
N/A PROPERTY MOSTLY HILLCREST BLVD 20										
	100-040-009-000		Eaton	Gary & Cynthia	1300 Ponderosa Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1300	Ponderosa Ct.
11:00 AM MESS (12)	100-040-008-000		VanHorn	Lyle & Terri	1330 Ponderosa Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1330	Ponderosa Ct.
(13)	100-040-007-000		Young (HUNTER)	David	Box 974	Colfax	CA	95713	1350	Ponderosa Ct.
11:00 AM (14)	100-040-006-000	1+	Hunter	Steven & Catherine	1335 Ponderosa Ct.	Colfax	CA	95713	1335	Ponderosa Ct.
			MADRONE LN.							
OTIS	100-050-023-000		Calhoun	Richard & Pam	24865 Madrone Ln.	Colfax	CA	95713	24865	Madrone Ln.
	100-050-022-000		McCollum	Lance & Dawn	PO Box 806	Colfax	CA	95713	24870	Madrone Ln.
	100-050-021-000		Hawley	Donald & Patricia	24890 Madrone Ln.	Colfax	CA	95713	24890	Madrone Ln.
(15)		2.3 ?	BOWMAN	SAM						
11:30 AM (16)		4.0	BERSET	KEITH & JOANNE					1490	HILLCREST BL
JUNE 1 (17)		1.5	SANDERS	STEVEN & LAURIE					1500	HILLCREST
11:30 AM (18)		2.3	HEILIG	RONALD & LYNETTE					1502	HILLCREST
11:30 AM (19)		2.4	HEILIG	RONALD & LYNETTE					1506	HILLCREST



Colfax Community Watershed & Fire Safe Ecosystem Project-- Hillcrest Project Area. 18 August 2005

Project status:

+ Contracts are signed.

+ Construction is scheduled Thanksgiving through Christmas.

+ Education & outreach Jan-Mar 06

+Project completion 6-30-2006

For more information contact:
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American River Watershed Institute

www.arwi.us